

Are there no other suitable buildings nearby? Lexington Building Water Tower proved to be the only suitable site in this area for the HVM system.

Will the equipment be noisy? The equipment is not noisy. It will be powered by mains electricity or, in the event of a power supply failure, a silent generator which will be procured especially for the Games.

Will the Armed Forces be there 24/7? During the rehearsal and the Games deployment, there will be a permanent presence of up to 10 soldiers at the building. They will be supported by the Police.

How can we be sure this is safe? The Air Defence system will be manned by fully trained, professional soldiers. It will be securely protected and it does not pose any hazard to residents. The system will be used to monitor the airspace and will only be authorised for active use following specific orders from the highest levels of Government in response to a confirmed and extreme security threat.

Will having missiles on our building make us a target? Having a 24/7 Armed Forces and Police presence will improve your local security and will not make you a target for terrorists.

Further Enquiries

Further information on the deployment of Armed Forces personnel and equipment can be obtained by calling 07879 603506. Please leave a message and a representative of the Ministry of Defence will call you back. Alternatively, please send your enquiry by e-mail to LONDIST-MoDOlympicsEnquiries@mod.uk

If you would like further information, please visit our website at: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/InDepth/OperationOlympicsDefenceSupportToLondon2012.htm>

For free translation, phone:

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Turjumaad bilaasha, kasoo wac

இலவச மொழிபெயர்ப்புக்காக, தொடர்பு கொள்ளுங்கள்

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07879 603506



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Armed Forces at Lexington Building Water Tower, Bow Quarter

During the Olympic and Paralympic Games



Information that you may want to know about the Armed Forces contribution to the Olympics and Paralympics Games in your area

Safety & Security

To support the delivery of a safe and secure Olympic Games the Secretary of State for Defence announced last year the deployment of certain Armed Forces units to London in support of the Olympics organisers (LOCOG), the police and the civil authorities. These include Typhoon aircraft, helicopters, HMS Ocean and Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) systems.

Part of this will include an air security plan to manage the restricted airspace that will be in place over London. This plan will be achieved through communications with the General Aviation community, but will also include interceptions by Typhoon aircraft, helicopters, and may include GBAD systems – part of which would be based on top of Lexington Building Water Tower.

The overall GBAD system consists of ground Rapier units and the smaller High Velocity Missile systems (HVM). An HVM system may be situated on the roof of the Lexington Building Water Tower. The location has been chosen as it is situated close to the Olympic Park and offers an excellent view of the surrounding area and the entire sky above the Olympic Park. The top of the tower also offers a flat, uncluttered and safe area from which to operate. Following detailed analysis of a number of possible locations, all of which suffered from obstructed views and the presence of various health and safety hazards Lexington Building Water Tower proved to be the only suitable site in this area for the HVM system.

Similar capabilities have been made available at every recent Olympic Games. The equipment that may be used will provide a significant detection capability and also a deterrence as part of the overall air security capability for the London Games.

It is not unusual for the civil authorities to seek assistance from the Armed Forces when there is a

significant and large public event in the UK and the Olympics is no different.

Military Exercise

The Armed Forces will conduct a major national exercise over the period 2 – 10 May. The exercise will test the Armed Forces in their role supporting the Police and LOCOG during the Games, and is designed to make sure that the military contribution to the Games is fully ready. It will also provide the final information required to support a decision about the deployment of GBAD systems for the Games. As such the GBAD systems will be deployed, (but with dummy missiles fitted for the exercise), at each of the sites including Lexington Building Water Tower from 2 – 7 May.

During the Games

After the exercise Government will decide whether or not GBAD will be deployed for the Games. If deployed the system is likely to remain on site at Lexington Building Water Tower throughout the Games. It would then be removed very shortly after the Games.

Profile of the Equipment

The HVM system is a short range system often used to complement the longer range Rapier system that will be based at other sites around London. The HVM system can be used on its own or in combination with Rapier.

The HVM system is operated by fully trained and experienced soldiers who regularly train with the equipment. The equipment will be guarded by military personnel 24/7 each day it is in place. The teams will operate a shift system to ensure 24/7 coverage. There will be periodic deliveries to resupply the site. These are not expected to be significant, frequent or disruptive to local residents and local roads.

Public Open Events

The Officer Commanding the GBAD unit would like to invite the residents of Bow Quarter to meet him and his team under the Arlington Arch on 5th May from 10.00 to 12.00.

We will continue to keep the community updated on our future activities and speak regularly with your local council in support of LOCOG and the police.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long will the Armed Forces be in Lexington Building Water Tower? The Armed Forces will be present for a Military exercise in early May for 5-7 days and then if the Government decides to employ GBAD measures the team will be operationally deployed for a period of up to 2 months this summer.

Why did the Armed Forces choose Lexington Building Water Tower? Lexington Building Water Tower was selected because it offers an excellent view across the local area, including the Olympic Park. It is part of a wider Air Defence supports our other Air Defence locations and the roof of the tower offers a practical and safe area from which to operate.

Ground Based Air Defence: High Velocity Missile (HVM)

